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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-0301

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Jessica Rosenworcel Chairwoman Federal Communications Commission 45 L. Street N.E. Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proposed Rule: Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band (WT Docket No. 20-443).

Dear Mrs. Rosenworcel,

I am writing to you to express my sincere and steadfast concern regarding the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) proposed rule: Expanding Flexible Use of the 12.2-12.7 GHz Band (WT Docket No. 20-443).

In addition to current service allocations, this proposed rule would allow the 12 GHz radio frequency band to also be allocated for two-way, point-to-point, and mobile broadband services, opening the frequency band up to use by 5G wireless providers.

Wireless providers have argued that this proposed rule is a net-positive, unleashing the full potential of 5G wireless cellular broadband, securing American global telecommunications leadership, spurring technological innovation, and increasing market competition. However, this proposed rule may have the potential unintended consequence of disrupting non-geostationary satellite systems (NGSO FSS), including SpaceX's service known as Starlink. In fact, a recent SpaceX study warned that this proposal could render 74% of Starlink customers without the service. Moreover, a 2019 study by Dish Wireless warned that 5G services could not operate on the 12 GHz band without harming NGSO FSS services such as Starlink and a 2020 study by AT&T Wireless found that adopting this proposal would fail to ensure that current service allocations are not disrupted.

The Starlink service provides high-speed, low-latency broadband internet to areas of our country historically underserved and overlooked by traditional broadband providers. Hundreds of thousands of Americans rely on Starlink for critical activities including education, work, and connecting with friends and family members. Carelessly implementing this proposed rule runs the risk of leaving countless Americans without affordable broadband access, or in many cases, any broadband access whatsoever.

For this reason, it is crucial that the FCC tread carefully regarding this proposed rule and seriously acknowledge the candid concerns of Starlink customers. As questions continue to arise regarding the best ways to spur technological innovation and competition, I call on the Commission to promptly and transparently conduct any action necessary to ensure that opening the 12 GHz radio frequency band for use by 5G wireless providers will not harmfully interfere with NGSO FSS services.

It is imperative that the FCC ensure that currently operational services are not disrupted if this proposed rule is adopted. If hundreds of thousands of historically underserved Americans are unjustly and unfairly stripped of their only choice of reliable high-speed broadband internet in the name of "innovation" or "increased competition," we would be taking a leap backward, not a step forward. Please abide by all rules and regulations when fulfilling this request.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. Member of Congress

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